(b) whether any early solution to the border dispute is in sight; and

(c) by when the next round of talks is likely to be held and what was the Chinese reaction to India's principled stand on the border issue in the East, in the middle sector and in the area adjacend to Kashmir in the West?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR): (a) During the recent visit to China of the then Minister of External Affairs, Shri Vidyacharan Shukla, the work of the Joint Working Group on the boundary question was reviewed, *inter alia*, by both sides. The *desire to work for a fair, reasonable and* mutually acceptable settlement of the boundary question, through peaceful and friendly consultations, was reaffirmed.

(b) The boundary question is a complex one and would have to be resolved through patient negotiations. No timeframe can, therefore, be set for the conclusion of these negotiations.

(c) The next session of the Joint Working Group is expected to be held in Beijing by June, 1991. The positions of the two countries concerning the boundary question are well known. The two sides are currently engaged in defining the parameters for a boundary settlement and exploring how differences can be narrowed so that a fair and reasonable solution is arrived at.

Minister of External Affairs' visit to Sri Lanka

*71. SHRI G. G. SWELL:
SHRI SURESH PACHOURI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether he had visited Sri Lanka in the last week of January; if so, the outcome of the visit;

(b) whether Sri Lankans have asked for the abrogation of the present Indo-Sri Lanka Accord;

(c) the features in the Indo-Sri Lanka accord which the Sri Lankans found objectionable; and

(d) whether India have agreed to the abrogation of the accord and its replacement by a treaty of Friendship and Cooperation?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR): (a) The former External Affairs Minister's visit to Sri Lanka from 28—31 January 1991, while providing an opportunity to express our concern over the ethnic issue in Sri Lanka, also underlined our desire to develop allround bilateral relations, particularly in the economic, trade and cultural fields. Our belief was reaffirmed that only a negotiated political settlement of the ethnic issue would provide a viable solution to the problem, and that the political framework created by Sri Lanka following the Indo-Sri Lanka Agreement of 1987, provided a good basis for a resonable and enduring settlement. We also stressed the need to pursue measures to bring the parties concerned to the negotiating table.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Does not arise.

DTC fleet

*72. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of DTC buses plying on the roads and the number of commuters who travelled in those buses during the months of December, 1990 and January, 1991;

(b) the reasons for reducing the number of buses; and

(c) whether there is any proposal not to ply DTC buses on Sundays?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI MANUBHAI KOTADIA: (a) The average number of DTC buses plying on the roads

and the number of commuters travelled in those buses is given below:—

Average number of buses:

December, 1990 . . .	3826
January, 1991 . . .	3856

Total number of commuters carried:

	lakhs
December, 1990 . . .	1437·34
January, 1991 . . .	1482 21

(b) Does not arise in view of answer to part (a) above.

(c) No, Sir.

Programme to improve customer service by the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited, Bombay

'73. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited, Bombay, has embarked upon the 100-day programme to improve the customer service which includes survey to gauge customers' perceptions about the services being provided to customers; and

(b) if so, whether the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited in other metropolitan cities would carry out similar surveys to gauge customer perception of the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited's quality and standard of services?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (DR. SANJAYA SINH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. The survey by MTNL is being carried out in Delhi also. This type of programme is being carried out not only in Metro towns but in all the places where Telephone Exchanges are located. The programme has been launched with effect from 1-1-91 with the following objectives:—

— Higher awareness of the problems of the subscribers and better responsiveness;

— Introduction of new services for better communications;

— Increased accessibility in rural network;

— Improved customer relationship;

— Technological innovations in the Telecom field;

— Reduction in waiting lists;

— Replacement of life expired instruments.

Refuelling of U.S. aircrafts at Bombay Agra and Madras

*74. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV:

Will the Miniser of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that refuelling of U.S. Aircrafts at Bombay, Agra and Madras took place during the Gulf War;

(b) if so, the number of U.S. aircrafts refuelled at various air bases in India after 15th January, 1991; alongwith the quantity of fuel given;

(c) what is the policy of Government in this regard; and

(d) what types of aircrafts were those which availed of the refuelling facilities and since when?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) From 15 January 1991 to 20 February 1991, 115 US transport aircraft were given transit and refuelling facilities. During the months of January and February, 1991, approximately 32 lakh litres of fuel was supplied.

(c) In keeping with normal international practice, and on the basis of reciprocity, the Government of India allowed the transit and refuelling of these aircraft.

(d) Only transport aircraft were given transit and refuelling facilities.